

Tools of the Trade...

Power Tools for Education

Conestoga College

Conestoga Recognizes Skills Medal Winners

Conestoga President Dr. John Tibbits said "how proud" he was of the twenty Conestoga students who earned medals this year at the Ontario Skills competition at a celebratory barbecue at the College's Guelph campus. He added that their achievements help shine the light on the importance of skills training. No other college in Ontario won as many medals as Conestoga.

Of the twenty provincial medalists, six Conestoga entrants went on to win medals at the 14th Canadian Skills Competition in Calgary. Their medals testified to their technical skills and problem-solving abilities, and three have earned a return trip to Calgary in 2009 to represent Canada in the World Skills Competitions, against the best international technical and trades students.

All six previously had won gold medals at the Ontario Technological Skills Competition held at RIM Park in Waterloo, and were part of the Team Ontario delegation to the May 26-28 national competition in Alberta. The Calgary event was presented by Skills Canada.

The Conestoga entrants took four silver and three bronze medals in their respective post-secondary

categories.

Silver medals went to:

- **Dan Van Holst** of Waterloo, who will be one of Conestoga's two World Skills entrants, in the Auto Service Technology category. He is a student in the Automotive Service Technician apprenticeship program at Conestoga's Guelph campus.
- **Jamie Perrault** of Elmira, who earned his medal in Industrial Wiring. He is a student in the Electrician - Industrial apprenticeship program at the Doon campus in Kitchener.
- **Jennifer Speers** of Guelph, whose medal came in the Industrial Mechanic Millwright contest. She is an apprenticeship student at the Guelph campus in Industrial Mechanic (Millwright).
- **Ben VanLeeuwen** of Listowel, who earned his medal in the Architectural CADD and Design competition. He is a Doon campus student, in the Construction Engineering Technology - Architecture co-op diploma program.



Bronze medals went to:

- **Jud Tofflemire** of Goderich, who will also represent Canada at the 2009 Calgary event, in the Electronics competition. He is a student in the Electronics Engineering Technician diploma program at Doon.
- **Lori Martin** of Elmira, who won her medal in the Brick Masonry contest. She is an apprenticeship student at Conestoga's Waterloo campus, in the Brick and Stone Mason program.
- **Brian Martin** a plumbing apprentice from our Waterloo Campus represented the MTCU and will advance on to the World Skills event.

Skills Canada is a voluntary association of educators, business and industrial leaders, and government representatives which aims to promote the value and importance of technical careers and education to young Canadians.

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Upcoming Offerings for 2009

- Pre-Apprenticeship Brick & Stone Mason
- Pre-Apprenticeship Truck Trailer Service Technician
- Masonry Fundamentals
- Motive Power Fundamentals ~ Heavy Duty Equipment Technician
- Heavy Equipment Operator
- Pipe Welding Program

Upcoming Events

Co-operative Education and
Career Services

On-campus Job Fair

Wednesday, March 25, 2009

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Recreation Centre, Doon Campus

Job Fair 2009

Co-hosted by Conestoga,
University of Guelph

University of Waterloo, Wilfrid
Laurier University

Wednesday, February 4, 2009

10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

RIM Park

Career Fair 2009

Co-hosted by Conestoga,
University of Guelph, University of
Waterloo, Wilfrid Laurier
University

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

RIM Park

Guelph Campus Tours 5:00 p.m.

January 19th, February 23rd

Waterloo Campus Tours 5:00 p.m.

January 20th, February 24th

Explore Conestoga

Waterloo Campus - March 21st
10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Doon Campus - March 28th
10:00 a.m.—1:30 p.m.

Guelph Campus - April 4th
10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Message from the Chairs

Thanks to the strong and continued support of the community, industry, apprentices, and students who choose Conestoga, we are the third largest apprenticeship trainer in the Province. And with your continued support we plan to continue to grow not only by increasing our capacity but also by developing new apprenticeship initiatives. Supporting the diverse and robust economy across this region we ultimately aspire to be the largest apprenticeship trainer in the Province.

Since our last newsletter, we have opened a new 9,000 square ft. flex shop for motive power trades at our Guelph campus and continue to see enrollment soar at our Waterloo and Doon campuses in the construction and industrial trades. New initiatives include programming in Heavy Equipment Operator, Pipe Welding,

Masonry, Heavy Equipment Technician and CNC Programmer as well as introducing a unique new Construction Techniques program that offers students an opportunity to learn a variety of trade specific skills in the construction field.

Through a combination of new post-secondary programs, pre-apprenticeship programs, and part-time and Continuing Education programs we are working hard to help address the skills shortages in our area. And we take great pride in being part of the solution. Working with the advice of Industry Advisory Committees we recognize that in order to be productive, efficient, cost effective and competitive our grads, your workforce, needs to be well trained, be able to think and be innovative, and to work safely.

We are proud to have three apprenticeship stu-

dents represent Canada at the World Skills Competition in September 2009 in Calgary. This competition symbolizes the height of excellence in trades and technologies. We wish them great success, they should be proud of their achievements!

We encourage you to contact us with your needs, suggestions and to let us know how we can help you remain competitive in these exciting times.

Stephen Speers, Greg White,
Chairs - School of Trades and
Apprenticeship



News from the Ministry

• Local Apprenticeship

Activity: The local MTCU office in Waterloo continues to be busy. We have added two additional consultants to our staffing team in an attempt to better meet the needs of employers and apprentices in our area. If you would like to register an apprentice please don't hesitate to call our office at (519) 571-6009. Thank you to those employers who continue to support apprenticeship training.

Renew Your License On-

Line: Just a reminder that journeymen can now renew their license on-line. To do this visit www.edu.gov.on.ca ; go to Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities; click on Employment Ontario; from the drop down menu choose Services for Journeymen; and then you have the option to Renew or Replace a Certificate.

New Training Programs developed in 2008:

Concrete Pump Operator - A Concrete Pump Operator coordinates the placement of ready-mix concrete through a pump at the site, sets up the concrete delivery system, monitors the movement of the concrete to the pour location, and resolves issues related to the movement of pump-able concrete.

Developmental Services

Worker – A Developmental Services Worker is defined as a person who supports people who have a developmental disability to enhance their capacity to function in all aspects of community living and to support the full inclusion of Ontarians with disabilities in all aspects of society.

Trade Test Preparation:

The Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities and Conestoga College are pleased to offer assistance to apprentices in preparation for their multiple choice **Certificate of Qualification** examination. Here is a sample of what is covered in this **FREE** one-hour workshop.

Some of the areas covered include:

test anxiety, stress/ anxiety, strategies for test taking, test preparation, tips on multiple choice exams

PLEASE CONTACT THE LOCAL MTCU OFFICE IN WATERLOO AT 519-571-6009 TO REGISTER.

~ Suzanne Moyer

Service Delivery Manager



**TRADES &
APPRENTICESHIPS**

Contact us at:

trades@conestogac.on.ca
519.748.5220 ext.2400

Check us out on the web!
www.conestogac.on.ca/trades

Employer Incentives

Please check out our new web site at www.conestogac.on.ca/trades for more information on tax credits and incentives that you may be eligible for:

- Ontario Apprenticeship Training Tax Credit
- Federal Apprenticeship Job Creation Tax Credit
- Apprenticeship Scholarship/ Employer Signing Bonus

Apprentices Incentives/Grants

- Apprenticeship Scholarship/ Employer Signing Bonus
- Apprenticeship Incentive Grant
- Loans for Tools
- Tradesperson Tool Deduction

Pre-Certification Courses

Need a refresher course in order to be successful?

Many Ontario Colleges offer Pre-Certification courses that may allow you to write your exam or re-write your certification exam. If you have more than 5 years experience working a trade specific area from outside of Canada or within Canada, you may want to pursue challenging your Certificate of Qualification.

For more information contact
519.824.9390 ext.144

Employment & Career Resources Available at Conestoga College:

Job Connect

Waterloo Campus 519.885.0300 ext.223

Stratford Campus 519.271.9976

Guelph Campus 519.824.9390 ext.333 Toll free: 1.866.585.4008

Fergus 519.843.5513

Conestoga Career Centre

Doon Campus / SCSB building 519.748.3535 Toll Free: 1.877.748.3535

Career Development Services

409 Weber Street, Kitchener, Ontario 519.576.2681 ext.225

Perth Career Counselling

Stratford Campus 519.271.5124

Co-operative Education & Career Services

Co-operative education is rapidly expanding...and with very good reason. Over 80,000 students are enrolled in university and college co-op programs across Canada today. Increasing numbers of employers and students are participating in programs that encompass arts, science, business, engineering, trades and technology. This proven method of training demonstrates collaboration between the school, the employer and the student.

Employers providing co-op work term and/or internship experience receive numerous benefits including: acquiring cost-effective temporary em-

ployees for peak periods of activity and seasonal variations in workload or short-term projects; evaluating experienced candidates before consideration for permanent employment; qualifying for the Ontario Co-operative Education Tax Credit Students benefit of up to \$1,000 per student, per work term.

Co-operative education students tend to be high achievers striving to meet clear learning objectives and the varied challenges of the workplace. Typically upon graduation they more easily find career-related employment and often return to a co-op employer. As they graduate not only with

theory, but also with "real world" experience to complement their studies, they are capable of making an immediate contribution.

Conestoga co-operative education programs have been developed to a very high standard as identified in Canadian Association for Co-operative Education (CAFCE) guidelines. As well, Conestoga actively supports Education at Work Ontario (EWO) and a Conestoga staff member is currently President Elect for this provincial co-operative education association.

Co-operative Education & Career Services Cont'd

This fall, forty Conestoga programs have instituted a co-op component with more than 2,500 full-time students participating in programs offered in the School of Business, School of Engineering and Information Technology, School of Health Sciences, Community Services and Biotechnology and the School of Trades and Apprenticeship.

During the eighteen years in which Conestoga has offered co-operative education opportunities for our students, a database of more than 5,000 employers has been developed. A recent continuous improvement project resulted in enhancements to the services provided by Co-operative Education and Career Services and now more than ever we are set to support employer recruitment efforts for full-time, part-time, seasonal, contract, volunteer or co-operative education personnel. We can assist you to identify pro-

grams of interest, post positions, provide detailed information on student capabilities, availability, and wage rates, as well as facilitate interview arrangements both on-campus and at the job site. The 2008/2009 Employer Guide to Co-operative Education and Career Services provides detailed information about our programs and services and is available in hardcopy, as well as on the college website under the Employer/Corporate Training heading.

The recent downturn in our economy has resulted in lay-offs and job losses that impact on everyone in our community. This is clearly reflected in the number of positions available and posted for talented hard-working, co-op students at Conestoga. Currently, we have a critical need for co-op opportunities during the upcoming winter work term, January to April 2009. We anticipate that this is likely to be the

case for the following spring/summer work term, May to August 2009, as well.

If you would like to post a position or if you would like to have an Employer Relations Consultant visit you to discuss your hiring needs, please give Sandra Cocco, Manager, Employer Relations and Job Development a call or email. She may be reached at 519-748-5220 ext.3438 and/or

scocco@conestogac.on.ca. Any questions you may have about the services available through the Co-operative Education and Career Services department, may be directed to Lynne Kattenhorn, Marketing and Events Coordinator at 519-748-5220 ext.3219 or lkattenhorn@conestogac.on.ca.

We look forward to hearing from you!

On December 3, 2008, the annual skilled trade fair was held at Bingaman Park in Kitchener Ontario. The trade fair is put on by The Waterloo Region District School Board and the Waterloo Catholic School Board in partnership with other community members. Its purpose is to expose high school students to a variety of skilled trades available as options for their future career choices.

The booths are set up to be interactive so that students can have brief hands on experience.

For those of us manning the booths it provides opportunity to explain all the different aspects of our trade and to perhaps share some of the passion we have for what we do.

Conestoga was represented by the Machining, Automotive and Carpentry departments.

Approximately 53 busloads of students descended on Marshall Hall eager to experience the day.

